

The Copper Coins of the old Mahárájás of Kashmír.—By C. J. RODGERS.*

(With two Plates.)

Some years ago General Cunningham wrote for the Numismatic Society of London, of which he is a most distinguished and worthy member, a Paper on "*The Ancient Coinage of Kashmír.*" That paper is now out of print, and as it was written 36 years ago, the present generation cannot obtain it. It identifies "no less than 18 Rájás of Kashmír extending from *Toramána* to *Jaga Deva*, who reigned from about A. D. 500 to 1200." In the present paper I propose to cover less ground and to start with *Avanti Vermá* or *Adityá Vermá*, the first Mahárájá of the Utpala Dynasty, which commences from the year 875 A. D. The coins are all from my own cabinet. In the majority of instances where I have duplicates I have chosen that coin for my plates, which has the greatest number of legible letters on it. The accessories which are very interesting have been made to give way to this, as I regard the identification of the coin as of primary importance.

As yet I have come across only two silver coins of any of these Mahárájás. They are of *DIDDA*, who was a *Maharání*, and of *KALASA*. These two coins are of much finer execution than any of the copper ones. The reverses have different letters on them. Nothing but photographs of them would do them justice. I reserve them therefore for a separate notice. They are round, but thicker than the copper coins and are much less worn. The silver coins of the Sultáns of Kashmír are square. General Cunningham informs me that he has two gold coins of *Harsha*. I believe they are the only gold coins known to exist of any one of the old Kashmír rulers.

The following is the list of the rájás as given in Prinsep's Tables.—(Those kings whose coins are in this paper are in italics.)

UTPALA DYNASTY.

A. D.

875. *Adityá* or *Avanti Vermá*.

904. *Sankara Vermá*.

922. *Gopala Vermá*.

* I am much indebted to General Cunningham for help in reading the coins of the Mahárájás. My cabinet contains several not before published both in the Sultáns and Mahárájás. I have several older coins, such as *Vasukal*, *Milukal*, *Pratápáditya*, *Vininyá*, *Durlabachá*.

Sankata.

924. *Sugandha Rání.*
 926. Pártha.
 941. Nirjita Vermá.
 942. Chakra Vermá.
 952. Sura Vermá
 953. Pártha, a second time.
 954. Chakra, a second time.
 954. Sankara Verdhana.
 956. Chakra Vermá, a third time.
 957. Unmatti Vermá.
 959. Sura Vermá, a second time.

 LAST OR MIXED DYNASTY.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 960. <i>Yaskara Deva.</i> | 1062. <i>Harsha.</i> |
| 969. Sangrama Deva. | 1062. Udayama Vikrama. |
| 969. Parvagupta. | 1072. Sankha Rájá. |
| 971. <i>Kshemagupta.</i> | 1072. Salha. |
| 979. <i>Abhimanyu.</i> | 1072. <i>Sussala.</i> |
| 993. <i>Nandigupta.</i> | 1088. Mallina. |
| 994. <i>Tribhuvana.</i> | 1088. <i>Jaya Siñha.</i> |
| 996. <i>Bhimagupta.</i> | 1110. <i>Paramána.</i> |
| 1001. <i>Didda Rání.</i> | 1119. Bandi Deva. |
| 1024. <i>Sangrama Deva.</i> | 1126. Bopya Deva. (?) |
| 1032. <i>Ananta Deva.</i> | 1135. Jasu Deva. |
| 1054. <i>Kalasa.</i> | 1153. <i>Jaga Deva, &c. &c.</i> |

The list goes on to 1298. But I have no coins of later kings than Jaga Deva. It will be seen, however, that out of these two lists alone I have given the coins of 19 kings. I have given another coin which reads *Jaga Deva Deva*. This must be a coin of a king who reigned near to the time of Jaga Deva. He must be either an usurper or a man who is known to history under some other name. I give with some diffidence another coin. I attribute it to Bopya Deva. Of this man it is written that his folly exceeded all bounds. The historians give us the following specimen of his lack of sense, which after all might have come from the banks of the Shannon. One day Bopya was taking his ease on the river. Looking over the side of the boat he saw a reflection of himself in the water. He smiled. The reflection smiled. He grew angry. It grew angry. At once he threw a stone which I suppose disturbed the water and disposed of

the mimic for the time. On looking at his finger Bopya discovered that he had lost his ring. Nothing disconcerted he took his stick and threw it on the running stream and ordered the boatmen to row home. Arrived there he ordered his servants to go and bring his ring telling them that he had put his stick on the water where it fell. One is reminded on reading this of the Irishman who dropped the ship's tea-kettle overboard in Dublin harbour. He cut a mark in the side of the ship where it fell. When the ship arrived off Cork, he asked the Captain whether if anything were lost he knew where it was? We may imagine the answer. Pat said, "Well, you know the tay kettle is at the bottom of Dublin harbour, and the ship's side has a mark on it to enable us to judge where it fell."

I regret that up to the present I have seen no coin of Ratangirí who is said to have been the first Sultán of Kashmír. He was a second Solomon. One day two mares foaled. The foal of one died. The foal of the other took to both mares with equal affection. The owners could not tell whose foal had died and whose was the living foal. They came to Ratangirí. He ordered them to throw the living foal from a bridge into the water, the mare that followed it was to be adjudged the mother.

Of Yaskara it is written that in his days thieves and highwaymen were nowhere to be seen. Shops and houses were left open at night. It seems a pity that this king, whose rule was as effective as that of our own Alfred who preceded him by only half a century, should have seen fit to leave the scene he had graced so long, to hide himself like a second Charles V. in a monastery, or rather I expect in some jungle as an ascetic.

Now for a few words about the coins themselves. Both obverse and reverse have crowned figures on them. The figure on the obverse is probably that of the king. But the face is in nearly every case more like that of an ass or bullock. There are large earrings in every instance. Round the waist are apparently two bands. The waist compared with the shoulders and chest is very thin. Mountaineers to the present day wear a rope round the waist. This figure is always seated, the legs being disposed of in a peculiar fashion. Sometimes they are hidden in the skirts, sometimes bare, and in one case the ancles have anklets on them (see figs. 22 and 24). The name comes on the obverse, and is generally divided into two parts by the figure. Sometimes *Srí* is present on the left of the figure and the name commences on the right. Sometimes *Srí* and part of the name are to the left and the remainder of the name to the right. Sometimes *Srí* is omitted and the name occupies both sides of the figure. The figure has a canopy over the crown. This is shown very well in some specimens of *Jaga Deva*, lately obtained from a heap of about two hundred. (See figs. 23, 24.)

The reverse has a figure crowned. But the earrings give way to four dots which may represent jewels in the ear as worn by women. This figure

is standing. The skirts are arranged peculiarly. The drawers resemble the broad and flowing drawers worn by women. The skirts are about as high as the knee. The legs are in some cases visible, with ties of an immense size to the boots: in other cases the legs seem to be naked. The waist is supported by a cross belt. The right hand contains a wreath. The left hand holds a trident or lotus. The shoulders seem to be covered with a cape which sticks out very much like epaulettes. The left hand side of the coin generally has a circle of dots in it, over the right hand of the figure. On the right hand side of the figure the remnants of the titles and names are generally found, under the left arm, such as *vermá*, *gupta*, *deva*, *rájá*. In one case the *d* of *deva* comes on the left hand side of the coin.

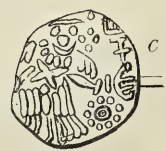
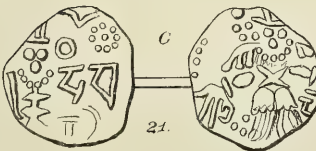
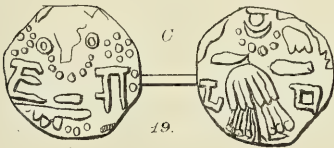
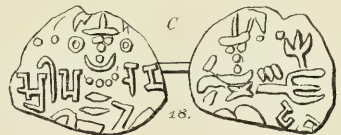
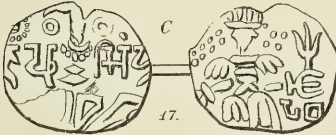
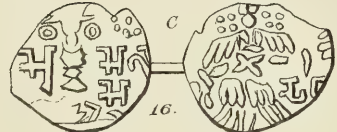
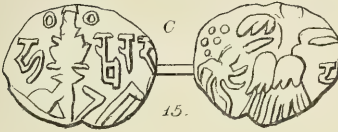
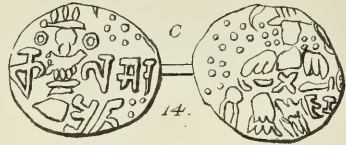
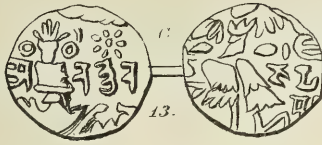
I have not as yet been able to trace anything like a sign approaching to a date on any coin.

In scarcely any case is there any difficulty about the identification of the coin; the names are very easily made out.

Many of the coins have several types. The coins of Gopala, Jaya Siñha, Sussala, Jaga Deva are of several kinds. The last mentioned, however, has the most. In only one case have I come across a smaller coin than the ones in the plates. The coin I have is evidently a half of whatever these coins were called. It is one of *Kalasa's*.

Having given so much by way of preface, I now give a table of the coins represented in Plates XI and XII, showing exactly the inscription on each coin and its position, whether on the right or left of the obverse or reverse figure. In every case I speak of the right and left of the coin after the usual numismatic fashion. When speaking of the figure of course the right hand of the figure is on the left of the coin and *vice versá*.





No. of Figure.	Kings' Names.	Obverse Inscriptions.		Reverse Inscriptions.		REMARKS.
		Left.	Right.	Left.	Right.	
1	Avanti,	अ	व		देव	Duplicate. British Museum.
2	Sankara,	—	स क्क		व मं	Rare.
3	Gopala,		गोपल		व मं	Rare.
4	Sugandha,	खी	सु गन्ध		व	Rare.
5	Yaskara,	य	स्क		देव	Duplicate. General Cunningham.
6	Dikshema,	दि	क्षे म		गु प	Common.
7	Abhimanyu,	अ	भि म		गु प	Duplicate. General Cunningham.
8	Nandigupta,	न	न्दिगु		प	Rare.
9	Tribhuvama,	त्रि	भु व		गु प	The gift of General Cunningham.
10	Bhimagupta,	भो	म गु		प	Rare.
11	Didda Rání,	डी	दि द	—	—	
12	Sangrama,	स	ङ्ग म		ज देव	Common.
13	Ananta,	अ	नन्तर		ज देव	Common.
14	Kalasa,	क	लसर		ज देव	Common.
15	Harsha,	ह	र्ष रज		देव	Common.
16	Sussala,	सु	सल ल		देव	Rare.
17	Jaya Siñha,	जय	सि ह		देव	Rare.
18	Paramána,	खी प	र म		देव	Duplicate. General Cunningham.
19	Jaga Deva,	ज	ग	दे	व	Common.
20	Java Deva,	ज व ।	दे		देव	Duplicate. J. D Tremlett, Esq.
21	Bopya Deva,	ण*	देव		देव	*Perhaps.
22	Not identified, ...	—	खी	—	ज*	*Perhaps.
23	Jaga Deva,	ज	ग देव			Obverse only.
24	Jaga Deva,	ज	ग			Ditto.
25	Jaga Deva,			दे	व	Reverse only.
26	Jaga Deva,			—	—	Ditto, showing circle of dots.